

HOUSE RESOLUTION 72

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize and welcome the Senegalese delegates as they visit Tennessee for Africa in April.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those dynamic leaders of foreign lands who travel to our great State to foster understanding, share cultural expressions, and develop common bonds of fellowship and good will; and

WHEREAS, one such acclaimed group is the delegation from Senegal who will be visiting the Capitol on April 15, 2013 and spending time in Memphis for the annual Africa in April Cultural Awareness Festival, which features four days of cultural diversity through the exhibition of ethnic music, cuisine, education, economics, transportation, technology, history, fashion, arts, crafts, and creative performances; and

WHEREAS, in attendance with this year's events will be several officials from Senegal including: His Excellency Mr. Cheikh Niang, Ambassador of Senegal to the United States; Mr. Papa Sagna Mbaye, Mayor of the City of Pikine; Mr. Aliou Diouck, Deputy Mayor of the City of Pikine; Mr. Moussa Ndiaye, Deputy Mayor of the City of Pikine; Mr. Mapenda Faye, City of Pikine Councilman; Mr. Ibrahima Hann, City of Pikine Councilman; Mrs. Nafi Fall, City of Pikine Councilwoman; Mrs. Bambi Dieng, Women's Association; Mrs. Awa Diallo, Women's Association; Mrs. Khardiata Mbaye, City of Pikine Head of Decentralized Cooperation; Mr. Moussa Sy, Mayor of Pacelles Assainies; Honorable Elhadj Sidy Niang, Consul General of Senegal in New York; Honorable Marie Therese Aida Seck, member of the Parliament of Senegal; the Women's Network of Pikine; and Mr. Cheikh Tidiane Mbaye, Senegalese Coordinator for the Festival; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Republic of Senegal will be showcased from an international perspective through a multiplicity of mediums, highlighting the African nation's many accomplishments, unique customs, and rich history; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Senegal is a country south of the Sénégal River in western Africa; Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, is located at the westernmost tip of the country on the Cap-Vert peninsula; and

WHEREAS, about 300 miles off the coast, in the Atlantic Ocean, lie the Cape Verde Islands; during colonial times, numerous trading Counters, belonging to various colonial empires were established along the coast; and

WHEREAS, the town of St. Louis became the capital of French Western Africa before it was moved to Dakar in 1902; Dakar later became its capital in 1960 at the time of independence from France; and

WHEREAS, the French colonies of Senegal and the French Sudan were merged in 1959 and granted their independence as the Mali Federation in 1960; however, the union broke up after only a few months; and

WHEREAS, Senegal joined with the Gambia to form the nominal confederation of Senegambia in 1982; the envisaged integration of the two countries was never carried out, and the union was dissolved in 1989; and

WHEREAS, today, Senegal remains one of the most stable democracies in Africa and has a long history of participating in international peacekeeping and regional mediation; and

WHEREAS, for over twenty-five years, Africa in April has enhanced the lives of everyone in the community by providing an avenue for community leaders and organizations, government officials, students, businesses, and religious organizations to learn more about the accomplishments of Africans and African-Americans; it is one of the finest cultural attractions in Shelby County and all of the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, this legislature is happy to celebrate Africa in April, the Republic of Senegal, and its visiting delegation as we embrace the unifying experience of cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is honored to have such an eminent group of individuals as this delegation of Senegalese leaders visit Nashville and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that this General Assembly, on behalf of the citizens of Tennessee, hereby extends its most cordial welcome to the members of the Senegalese delegation as they visit our State and celebrate Africa in April.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes for a fruitful, enjoyable, and rewarding visit, and express our profound hope that they will visit the State of Tennessee again.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.